

ANNUAL REPORT for 1896 by the Medical Officer of Health

to the Barton Regis Rural District Council.

JANUARY 1897.

The Rural Sanitary district of Barton Regis now consists of Filton with an acreage of 1025 and a population of 311 - Henbury containing 8552 acres and 2026 population - Shirehampton with 1581 acres and 2682 inhabitants - Stekel Gifford with 2397 acres and a population of 364 - Westbury on Trym 2894 acres and 4450 inhabitants - and Winterbourne 3030 acres with a population of 3350.

	<u>Acres.</u>	<u>Residents.</u>
Filton	1025	311
Henbury	8552	2026
Shirehampton	1581	2682
Stoke Gifford	2397	364
Westbury on Trym	2894	4450
Winterbourne	3030	3350
	19279	13183

The density of population varies much in the different parishes and in particular localities. Stoke Gifford has the smallest proportion of residents per acre - only one to 6.5 acres but the houses are nearly all gathered into one village near the Church. Henbury comes next with 4.2 acres to each inhabitant collected into several hamlets besides the village proper. Filton has one person to 3.3 acres and Shirehampton 1.9 acres to each inhabitant - but when we come to Winterbourne, and by the roadside of the West Gloucester Railway

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896 BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL.

JANUARY 1897.

Gentlemen,

The Rural Sanitary District of Barton Regis now consists of Wilton with an acreage of 1082 and a population of 311 - Henbury containing 3332 acres and 3032 population - Shirehampton with 1381 acres and 3632 inhabitants - Stoke Gifford with 2397 acres and a population of 364 - Westbury on Tyne 2894 acres and 4450 inhabitants - and Winterbourne 3030 acres with a population of 3350.

Residents.	Acreage.	
311	1082	Wilton
3032	3332	Henbury
3632	1381	Shirehampton
364	2397	Stoke Gifford
4450	2894	Westbury on Tyne
3350	3030	Winterbourne
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The density of population varies much in the different parishes and in particular localities. Stoke Gifford has the smallest proportion of residents per acre - only one to 8.5 acres but the houses are nearly all gathered into one village near the Church. Henbury comes next with 4.5 acres to each inhabitant collected into several hamlets besides the village proper. Wilton has one person to 3.5 acres and Shirehampton 1.5 acres to each inhabitant - but when we come to Winterbourne and

guarantee provided by your Authority, simply provided in

and Westbury on Trym the relative proportions change sides. Winterbourne has 1.1 person to every acre and Westbury 1.5 to every acre - the proportion of the whole district is 0.62 residents to each acre of surface.

In the last two years our district has decreased by the absorption into Bristol of the part of Avonmouth surrounding the Docks, about 130 houses with 700 inhabitants, and by the junction to Horfield Urban District of that part of Horfield parish which was formerly considered rural, containing a population of 645 residents.

Water
Supply.

The water supply of our district is now, speaking generally, good. The Bristol Water Company comes to Filton, Henbury, Westbury and Shirehampton, and the West Gloucester Water Company to Winterbourne. Stoke Gifford is the only parish wholly without Company's water, but the population is small, relatively to its acreage very small - and its local water supply fairly good so that at present there is no necessity for further provision.

Some portions of those parishes through which Company's mains run have not yet the advantage of a supply although decidedly in need - for example, from Stoke Lane, a somewhat thickly populated part of Westbury, I received a written complaint signed by seven householders during the dry period of last summer (July) that they were without water of any kind for drinking or domestic purposes, upon which I put myself in communication with the Secretary of the Bristol Water Company and found from him that a survey had been made but that there were not enough houses to pay the Company for laying a special main unless with a public guarantee. Winterbourne, which was formerly badly off for water, is now by the presence of the West Gloucester Company's pipe and the

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Winterbourne, which was formerly paid off for water, is now
by the agreement of the West Gloucester Company's pipe and the

guarantee provided by your Authority, amply provided in almost every part. Tilton also, in which formerly there was sometimes almost a water famine, is now by your action with the Bristol Company, well provided of Bristol, the

Sewerage.

The Village of Westbury, the most densely populated part of your district, is still struggling with a new scheme of Sewerage. Hitherto it has had a regular system dependent upon two outlets - one at the Sewage Farm at Canford and the other through a conduit directly to the River Avon at Seamills. It is now proposed to do away with the Sewage Farm which has become a nuisance in itself and conduct all the sewage into the Avon. The other parishes have no systematic drainage but

Upon this question a Local Government Board enquiry was held in the village last October and the decision of the Board has only just been received, which is in effect

Housing of Working Classes.

The House accommodation for the working class has that the Board will not sanction the abandonment of the existing sewage disposal works at Canford, but require that they shall be so modified and improved as to render them capable of properly purifying the sewage without causing any local nuisance. The year I have had to report three instances of overcrowding, one at Highwood Lane, one at Tilton and one behind Baitfield

Canford Farm.

Westbury, but this is a great reduction from the How this is to be done I am at a loss to comprehend. Upon receipt of the Report I ventured to write your Board my views on the question - namely, that Canford Sewage Farm is, has been, and always will constitute a nuisance injurious to health in the centre of a locality rapidly being built over, that the nature of the soil renders it unsuitable for the purpose of a

Hospital accommodation.

Sewage Farm and its situation on the River Trym pollutes that stream to a dangerous extent - the expenditure of a large sum of money ^{there} in purification works would therefore be unwise and inexpedient. We have no provision of our own for isolating

On the other hand Sea Mills on the River Avon - a tidal river - seems pointed out by nature as the direction in which Sewage should be conveyed - it is the point at which the Trym joins the Avon - the natural water shed of

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Canford
Farm.

satisfactory because vaccination has reduced the outbreak of the locality, many miles nearer the sea than Bristol, Clifton or Small Pox to "far and far between". But I am frequently asked to remove Scouring which Bristol declines to take and sewage of the quarter of a million people of Bristol, the sewage of 3,500 from Westbury so much nearer the outlet, will so much the cases I am asked to remove but those I can persuade to move that will help to prevent the spread of Scouring.

The small supplementary Sewage Tank at Shirehampton which is now almost always present more or less on which has been the cause of so much complaint and on which I the Westbury side of our District. When I wrote my last Annual Report, negotiations had been in progress for joining of nuisance and my attention has not been called to any fault with Horfield is building a Fever Hospital at Patchway which is within our boundary. Unfortunately these negotiations

The other parishes have no systematic drainage but came to an unsuccessful issue and I do not hear of any further by the careful supervision and reports of your Inspector the local disposal of sewerage is not allowed to cause nuisance.

The House accommodation for the working class has much improved since you began to carry into force the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act. During the year I have had to report three instances of overcrowding, one at Highwood Lane, one at Filton and one behind Eastfield Road, Westbury, but this is a great reduction from the number in former years and the same remark applies to structural defects. I have reported as being in a condition injurious to health and therefore unfit for human habitation six houses at Pembroke Road, Shirehampton - three cottages at Filton - two cottages at Wadleys End, Winterbourne, and one cottage at Winterbourne Down.

We have no provision of our own for isolating infectious cases and have hitherto depended upon the neighbouring City of Bristol to help us when absolute necessity has arisen. Bristol has promised to help us in the matter of Small Pox by entering into an agreement with our Council to take such cases into its Small Pox Hospital upon a fixed charge and so far as Small Pox is concerned this is

the locality, many miles nearer the sea than Bristol, Clifton or their suburbs, and so long as the Avon is polluted with the sewage of the quarter of a million people of Bristol, the sewage of 2,500 from Westbury so much nearer the outlet, will not appreciably add to its impurity.

The small supplementary Sewage Tank at Shiphampton which has been the cause of so much complaint and on which I have made you more than one report, is now no longer a source of nuisance and my attention has not been called to any fault in the drainage of the parish lately.

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Housing of
Working
Classes.

Hospital
accommodation.

Action
taken.

satisfactory because vaccination has reduced the outbreaks of Small Pox to "few and far between". But I am frequently asked to remove Scarlatina which Bristol declines to take and am always obliged to confess my inability. But it is not so much the cases I am asked to remove but those I can persuade to move that will help to prevent the spread of Scarlatina which is now almost always present more or less on the Westbury side of our District. When I wrote my last Annual Report, negotiations had been in progress for joining with Horfield in building a Fever Hospital at Patchway which is within our boundary. Unfortunately these negotiations came to an unsuccessful issue and I do not hear of any further advance in the matter. It would be a great gain if we had the means of removal and such means as would be agreeable to the sufferers. I am more than ever convinced that in rural districts Isolation Hospitals to be of service must not be large imposing buildings in one centre but small unpretentious but few and no case occurred in this district - one case of a homely institutions not far from the locality they have to serve and if they are so there is no need for the extravagant cost which seems to alarm the representatives of the rate-payers. At the end of the Annual Report (for 1896) of the Gloucestershire C.C. there is a table showing where joint Isolation Hospitals might be established. The table divides the County into 10 joint isolation districts. We are in certain and then turned out to be Small Pox it might have Stapleton district, which includes Warmely, St George, Stapleton, Horfield, Kingswood and Barton Regis, a population of 108,000 - Instead of the Hospital for this population, the first two or three days of the nature of such an eruption of which we form about an eighth part, I should like to see a small establishment for Henbury, Westbury and Shirehampton and another for Winterbourne, Filton and Stoke Gifford. The initial cost of such hospitals would be but small and their maintenance little, and there would be no feeling of transportation involved in allowing friends to go to them.

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of small pox to "few and far between". But I am frequently
asked to remove vaccination which Bristol declines to take and
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so much the cases I am asked to remove but those I can per-
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the western side of our District. When I wrote my last
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Stapleton, Northfield, Kingswood and Barton Regis, a population
of 108,000 - Instead of the Hospital for this population,
of which we form about an eighth part, I should like to see a
small establishment for Henbury, Westbury and Shirehampton
and another for Winterbourne, Pilton and Stone Gifford. The
initial cost of such hospitals would be but small and their
maintenance little, and there would be no feeling of transpor-
tation involved in allowing friends to go to them.

Action
taken.

In consequence of the alarming outbreak of Small
Pox at Gloucester all the Medical Officers of Health in and
around Bristol met in conference on the 17th of March forming
themselves into an Inter-notifying Association, by which each
one should have immediate notice of every case of Small Pox
occurring in any other district - We discussed the situation
under the following heads:-

- 1st. Arrangements for Vaccination and re-vaccination.
- 2nd. Hospital accommodation and nursing.
- 3rd. Ambulance Service.
- 4th. Disinfectors.
- 5th. Method of visiting infected households and accommodation
shelters.
- 6th. Control of Tramps.
- 7th. Internotification.

Fortunately the cases occurring in any of the districts were
but few and no case occurred in this district - One case of a
rare form of Scarpa was notified to me as Small Pox and isolated,
for a time causing needless alarm, but after a few days
isolation the true character of the eruption was manifest and
the man discharged. Considerable irritation was caused by
the error, but the error was on the right side - had it re-
mained unnoticed and unisolated until its nature was quite
certain and then turned out to be Small Pox it might have
been the seed of an epidemic of a serious nature and it is
impossible for any one to speak with positive certainty during
the first two or three days of the nature of such an eruption.

In September, St. Andrew Infant School was closed at
my request in consequence of the epidemic of measles, which
was also the cause of the closure of Winterbourne school in
October. In December, Stoke Bishop School was closed at my
request in consequence of a series of cases of scarlatina, all

of which were in schools from that School and White's Hill
British School was also closed in December in consequence of
the prevalence of Measles.

Inquiries
made.

In May, in company with your Inspector and in
obedience to a request from your Clerk, under instructions
from the Local Government Board, under the Factories and
Workshops' Act 1891. I made a regular inspection of all the
Factories and Workshops including Laminaries and Washhouses
in your district, and presented a tabulated report. Many
verbal faults and omissions were detected and reported, but
nothing of a serious nature came to light. Upon the whole
it is matter for congratulation that work is carried on under
such satisfactory conditions in this locality.

In July, a Local Government Board enquiry was held
at Westbury on the proposed Cemetery at Stoke Lane.
I had previously expressed to you my opinion that Stoke Lane
is one of our valuable spots and that the presence of a
Cemetery would be prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants.
I was glad therefore to find that your Council took an active
part in opposing the proposal - having heard no more of it
lately I conclude the verdict of the Commissioner was against
it and the idea is abandoned.

A more serious matter was the subject of another
Local Government Board enquiry at Westbury, in October,
namely the proposal to abolish the Sewage Farm and carry the
sewage directly into the Avon.

Supervision
exercised.

In January, I visited a house in Highwood Lane, a
spot in the parish of Westbury, so inaccessible as to be hardly
fit to live in, and reported to you that it was overcrowded
and from structural defects unfit for human habitation, in
fact only fit to be pulled down.

In February, I visited in company with your

of which was in 1901. The first of these was in 1901, and the second in 1902. The third was in 1903, and the fourth in 1904. The fifth was in 1905, and the sixth in 1906. The seventh was in 1907, and the eighth in 1908. The ninth was in 1909, and the tenth in 1910. The eleventh was in 1911, and the twelfth in 1912. The thirteenth was in 1913, and the fourteenth in 1914. The fifteenth was in 1915, and the sixteenth in 1916. The seventeenth was in 1917, and the eighteenth in 1918. The nineteenth was in 1919, and the twentieth in 1920. The twenty-first was in 1921, and the twenty-second in 1922. The twenty-third was in 1923, and the twenty-fourth in 1924. The twenty-fifth was in 1925, and the twenty-sixth in 1926. The twenty-seventh was in 1927, and the twenty-eighth in 1928. The twenty-ninth was in 1929, and the thirtieth in 1930. The thirty-first was in 1931, and the thirty-second in 1932. The thirty-third was in 1933, and the thirty-fourth in 1934. The thirty-fifth was in 1935, and the thirty-sixth in 1936. The thirty-seventh was in 1937, and the thirty-eighth in 1938. The thirty-ninth was in 1939, and the fortieth in 1940. The forty-first was in 1941, and the forty-second in 1942. The forty-third was in 1943, and the forty-fourth in 1944. The forty-fifth was in 1945, and the forty-sixth in 1946. The forty-seventh was in 1947, and the forty-eighth in 1948. The forty-ninth was in 1949, and the fiftieth in 1950. The fifty-first was in 1951, and the fifty-second in 1952. The fifty-third was in 1953, and the fifty-fourth in 1954. The fifty-fifth was in 1955, and the fifty-sixth in 1956. The fifty-seventh was in 1957, and the fifty-eighth in 1958. The fifty-ninth was in 1959, and the sixtieth in 1960. The sixty-first was in 1961, and the sixty-second in 1962. The sixty-third was in 1963, and the sixty-fourth in 1964. The sixty-fifth was in 1965, and the sixty-sixth in 1966. The sixty-seventh was in 1967, and the sixty-eighth in 1968. The sixty-ninth was in 1969, and the seventieth in 1970. The seventy-first was in 1971, and the seventy-second in 1972. The seventy-third was in 1973, and the seventy-fourth in 1974. The seventy-fifth was in 1975, and the seventy-sixth in 1976. The seventy-seventh was in 1977, and the seventy-eighth in 1978. The seventy-ninth was in 1979, and the eightieth in 1980. The eighty-first was in 1981, and the eighty-second in 1982. The eighty-third was in 1983, and the eighty-fourth in 1984. The eighty-fifth was in 1985, and the eighty-sixth in 1986. The eighty-seventh was in 1987, and the eighty-eighth in 1988. The eighty-ninth was in 1989, and the ninetieth in 1990. The ninety-first was in 1991, and the ninety-second in 1992. The ninety-third was in 1993, and the ninety-fourth in 1994. The ninety-fifth was in 1995, and the ninety-sixth in 1996. The ninety-seventh was in 1997, and the ninety-eighth in 1998. The ninety-ninth was in 1999, and the hundredth in 2000.

annual

Inspector, and reported under the Housing of the Working
Classes Act, three houses in Westgate Road, Shipston-on-Avon, which
were in such condition as to be ^{so} injurious to health as to be
unfit for human habitation. I again visited these houses in
June and reported that the defects had not been remedied, but
since then under your threat of prosecution the nuisance has
been abated.

In February, a case of Typhoid Fever
proved fatal at Shipston-on-Avon - by rigorous measures of isolation
and disinfection, particularly as regards the midwife employed,
the disease was confined to the one fatal case.

In February, a case of Typhoid Fever occurring in
Winterbourne Hill, I requested your Inspector to examine the
drainage of the rank of old cottages involved and found
sufficient cause to warrant for the nuisance - the faulty drain-
age has been remedied and no further case of fever has occurred.

In May, I inspected three cottages at Filton near
the Church and reported to you that they were so dirty and
dilapidated as to be unfit for human habitation. These
cottages are still in the same condition and are nevertheless
tenanted.

In September, I reported to you that two cottages
at Whilys Hall, Winterbourne were in such dilapidated condition
as to constitute a nuisance injurious to health.

Vital

Statistics.

Births.

The Births this year number 286 - Males 131, Females
155. - in the first quarter 73 - in the second quarter 65, in
the third quarter 69 and in the 4th quarter 79. The number
is considerably less than the average of the last 5 years -
in 1931 the births were 433, in 1932, 343. in 1933, 421. in 1934
373. In 1935, 350, giving an average of 380 per annum or a
rate of 27.1 per 1000 of the population, while this year the
number is 286 or only 21.6 per 1000 of the reduced population.
I have remarked upon this falling off before which almost

The disease was confined to the one fatal case, and disinfection, particularly as regards the house, was completed to the satisfaction of the health authorities. In February, a case of typhoid fever was noted. The patient was a young man, who had been under your direct observation the previous year. He was treated in the hospital, and recovered. The disease was confined to the one fatal case, and disinfection, particularly as regards the house, was completed to the satisfaction of the health authorities.

... to give any

...

... the first quarter 48. in

... in the fourth

... the average of the last three years is 30.1 or 10

... the population of 1.5 to every 1000 of the population while

... this year the rate is only 17.38 per 1000.

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... three years being 10 or 13.6 per 1000 of the population

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Table of Notifications.

Parishes		Diph- theria.	Croup.	Ery- sipelas.	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Puer- peral Fever	Total	Population
Filton.	1st qr.				3				
	2nd do.				1				
	3rd do.								
	4th do.							4	311
Henbury.	1st qr.	1							
	2nd do.								
	3rd do.				10				
	4th do.	6			1	3		30	2026
Shire- hampton.	1st qr.						1		
	2nd do.								
	3rd do.			3	1				
	4th do.							5	2682
Stoke Gifford.	1st qr.								
	2nd do.	1			15				
	3rd do.								
	4th do.							16	364
Westbury.	1st qr.			1	3	1			
	2nd do.	1		1	18	2			
	3rd do.			2	29				
	4th do.	1		1	16			75	4450
Winter- bourne.	1st qr.				2	1			
	2nd do.								
	3rd do.		1	2					
	4th do.				1			7	3350
TOTALS.		10	1	10	99	6	1	127	13183.

Zymotics.

Zymotics account for 15 deaths giving a death rate of 1.1 per 1000 of the population and 8.4 p.c. of attacks notified. Of these 5 are from Scarlatina which compared with 99 the number of cases notified gives a death rate of nearly 5 per cent; while Measles which is no longer notified in this district causes 7 deaths. The question still remains open whether measles should not be notified - and whether the small expense involved compared with the very large outlay on

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Parishes	Diph- theria	Group Erysipelas	Scarlat Fever	Typhoid Fever	Post- Pneum Fever	Total Population
Wilton. 1st gr. 2nd do. 3rd do. 4th do.			3 1			211
Hembury. 1st gr. 2nd do. 3rd do. 4th do.	1		10 1	3		2026
Shire- hampton. 1st gr. 2nd do. 3rd do. 4th do.			1		1	2662
Stoke Gifford. 1st gr. 2nd do. 3rd do. 4th do.	1		12			261
Westbury. 1st gr. 2nd do. 3rd do. 4th do.	1	1 1 3 1	3 12 22 16	1 2		4450
Winter- bourne. 1st gr. 2nd do. 3rd do. 4th do.		1	3 1	1		2250
TOTALS.	10	1	99	6	1	12122

Table of Notifications.

1892.

general sanitary service would not be value received. I have always been of opinion that it should - not that Isolation in Hospital would be required unless in exceptional cases but that the Medical Officer of Health should have authentic information upon a very fatal infectious malady in his district - which now often requires the closure of elementary schools on hearsay evidence.

Croup is the cause of one death - one is attributed to Diarrhoea and one unfortunately is caused by Puerperal Fever.

The number of children successfully vaccinated in the year is 144 - the number of births 286 - of the 142 unvaccinated children, 37 have died - it is reasonable to assume that 10 would represent the number unsusceptible or postponed under Medical Certificate - and another 10 would represent removals to other districts but there still remains 85 - the number of children unvaccinated during the year - and after our recent experience at Gloucester this is an alarming number.

EDWARD CROSSMAN.

